organisations like Police, BSF, Customs, ITBP, Coast Guards etc. Training programmes on wildlife enforcement and implementation were also conducted for all these organisations at New Delhi and Dehradun during, 1995 and 1996.

Demands of Fishermen and Fish Workers

817. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJI-RAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether fishermen and fish workers represented by the National Fisheries Action Committee had been on a prolonged strike since August 7, 1996;

(b) if so, the details of their precise demands; and

(c) the steps taken to resolve the issues involved and to meet their demands?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) The Action Committee of Fishermen and Fish Workers have been representing against the New Deep Sea Fishing Policy 1991 involving operations of deep sea fishing vessels under Joint Venture, Lease and Test Fishing schemes and have been demanding cancellation of licences/permits issued for fishing operations under these schemes.

(c) The Government had constituted a Review Committee on Deep Sea Fishing Policy in February, 1995. The Committee submitted its report on 8th February, 1996. The recommendations made by the committee have been examined and it has been decided to accept these in principle. However, in respect of the recommendation regarding cancellation of all valid permits/permissions issued for Joint Venture, Leasing, Test Fishing and Chartering, it has been decided that action to cancel permits/permissions be taken in individual cases only if there are contraventions of provisions of the Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Act, 1981 or Rules made thereunder and/or violation of any of the terms and conditions of such permits/permissions.

Revival of sick fertilizer units

818. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set-up an expert group to examine the possibilities of reviving sick fertilizer units in the country;

(b) if so, the composition of the expert group;

(c) by when the expert group is likely to submit its report;

(d) the details of fertilizer units in the country which are sick;

(e) the efforts made by Government during the past three years to revive them; and

(f) the reasons for not achieving the target to revive those sick fertilizer units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (c) In order to reformulate the revival packages for the two sick fertilizer companies in the Central public sector namely, Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC) and Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCI), the Government had constituted an expert Group led by the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Ltd. (ICICI) with representatives of Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), HFC and FCI. The Group is expected to indicate the specific assumptions from the standpoint of funding of the revival packages by the Financial Institutios (FIs). The consultancy organisation appointed by Group to undertake an independent technical appraisal of the revival packages has submitted its report, based on which the Group would reformulate the revival packages.

(d) to (f) FCI & HFC had been declared sick by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) in November, 1992. In order to r estore the financial health of these undertakings, the Government had approved in principle a revival package in April, 1995 which

envisaged the revamp of Sindri, Ramagundam and Talcher units of FCI; and Durgapur, Barauni an Namrup units of HFC entailing a fresh investment of Rs. 2201.13 crore at 1994 price levels, apart from capital restructuring and other financial reliefs to the undertakings. The funding arrangements for these packages could not be tied up. The final decision on the implementation of the reformulated revival packages would depend upon the tie up of funding arrangements and outcome of the proceedigns pending before the BFIR, which is a quasi-judicial authority.

Fishery Policy

819. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a Fishery Policy on the analogy of Food Policy:

(b) if so, its details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reasons for decline in the catch of the traditional fishermen in coastal areas; and

(d) the impact of unbridled deep-sea fishing?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b): The policy of the Government of India on the subject of fisheries has been stated in various documents including the Eighth Five Year Plan document. However, recognising the need for a consolidated statement on fishery policy, the Ministry of Agriculture has drafted a National Fisheries Policy covering all aspects of the fisheries sector. The draft National Fisheries Policy was referred to the States and also put up to the Central Board of Fisheries at its 20th meeting. The Central Board of Fisheries has endorsed the draft National Fisheries Policy statement.

The objectives, as laid down in the draft National Fisheries Policy, are:

(i) Conservation of aquatic resources and genetic diversity;

(ii) enhancing of production of fish and the productivity of fishermen, fish farmers and fishing industry;

(iii) generating employment for the coastal and rural poor;

(iv) improving the socio-economic conditions of the traditional fishermen and fish farmers; and

(v) augmenting export of fish and marine products taking into account the need for responsible and sustainable fisheries.

The draft Policy provides for development of marine fisheries, inland fisheries, acquaculture, infrastructure including marketing facilities, fisheries cooperatives, manpower research & training, extension, credit facilities and insurance cover over the remaining period of the Eighth Five Year Plan and during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(c) The fish production from the marine sector in the country has increased from 25.76 lakh tonnes in 1992-93 to 27.07 lakh tonnes in 1995-96. The contribution from the deep sea sector out of this is only about 30,000 tonnes and the remaining production is from the traditional and small-scale mechanised sector. There is no decline in the production of fish from the traditional sector.

(d) In view of reply (c) above, the question does not arise.

Foodgrains output of the country

820. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the positition of India as percentage of world's population, cultivated land and foodgrains output?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): The position of India in the world's population, cultivated (arable) land and foodgrains production is as under:—

		India 1994-95	World 1994 World	% share of India in the
(i)	Population (Million)	904	5630	16.3
(ii)	Cultivated land (Million hects.)	166	1343	12.4
(iii)	Production of foodgrains including paddy (Million tonnes)	227	2010	11.3